REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-5, 9-20, 24-35, 39-46, 49-52 and 55-91 are currently pending in this application. Claims 6-8, 21-23, 36-38, 47, 48, 53 and 54 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 9, 12-18, 24, 26, 27, 29-33, 39, 41-46, 49, 51, 52, 55 and 57 have been amended to incorporate subject matter in the canceled claims which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable into independent claim form, and to correct various informalities pointed out by the Examiner. New claims 58-91 (similar to claims 2-5, 10-15, 17-20, 25-30, 32-35, 40-45, 50, 51, 56 and 57) have been added to depend on newly formed independent claims 9, 24, 39, 49 and 55. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by the Amendment.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 7-9, 12, 13, 22-24, 26, 27, 37-39, 41-43 and 46-57 because of various informalities. The claims have either been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions or have been canceled. The withdrawal of the objection to the claims 7-9, 12, 13, 22-24, 26, 27, 37-39, 41-43 and 46-57 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite because the phrase "the amplification control signal" lacks antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to provide adequate antecedent basis.

Based on the arguments presented above, the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 8, 9, 23, 24, 38, 39, 48, 49, 54 and 55 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and the limitations of the intervening claims 6 and 7, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-5 and 10-15 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended as an independent claim which combines the allowable subject matter of claim 9 with the limitations of the original base claim 1 and the intervening claims 6 and 7, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 9 and dependent claims 58-67 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 23 and the limitations of the intervening claims 21 and 22, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 16 and dependent claims 17-20 and 25-30 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 has been amended as an independent claim which combines the allowable subject matter of claim 24 with the limitations of the original base claim 16 and the intervening claims 21 and 22, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 24 and dependent claims 68-77 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 38 and the limitations of the intervening claims 36 and 37, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants

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submit that claim 31 and dependent claims 32-35 and 40-45 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 39 has been amended as an independent claim which combines the allowable subject matter of claim 39 with the limitations of the original base claim 31 and the intervening claims 36 and 37, and to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 39 and dependent claims 78-87 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 48 and the limitations of the intervening claim 47. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 46 and dependent claims 50 and 51 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 49 has been amended as an independent claim which combines the allowable subject matter of claim 49 with the limitations of the original base claim 46 and the intervening claim 47. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 49 and dependent claims 88 and 89 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 52 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 54 and the limitations of the intervening claim 53. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 52 and dependent claims 56 and 57 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 55 has been amended as an independent claim which combines the allowable subject matter of claim 55 with the limitations of the original base claim 52 and the intervening claim 53. Thus, the Applicants submit that claim 55 and dependent claims 90 and 91 are in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-5, 9-20, 24-35, 39-46, 49-52 and 55-91, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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